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NOVEMBER 20, 1889.



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# Farmer

AND

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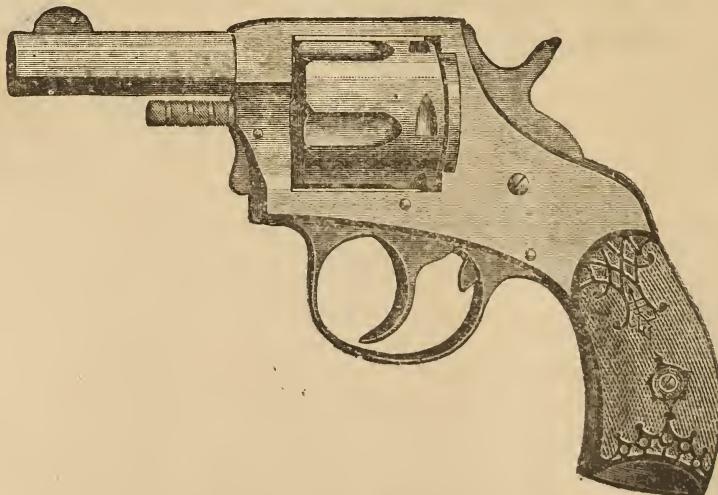
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THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MARYLAND, AND FOR TEN YEARS THE ONLY ONE.

## AND NEW FARM.

Vol. XXVI. BALTIMORE, November 20, 1889. No. 13.

For the Maryland Farmer.

### ELECTIONS.

The importance of the farmers generally looking upon their own interests in the matter of election to office never was greater than now.

We are told that an agricultural magazine should leave politics alone—that all parties subscribe and it is impossible to enter a word on politics without offending one party or the other.

This is the same kind of argument which has been the source of all the weakness of the Patrons of Husbandry. The cry was, "keep out of politics," and so nothing was accomplished where it was most needed. If an organization of bankers is formed, it is done to influence legislation on the financial side and get the help of Congress in important measures—to get interest on their untaxed bonds from the government, and also privileges of

issuing millions of currency on those same bonds upon which to get another interest from those who need money.

If manufacturers organize it is to secure additional legislation, freeing their plant from taxation, piling up additional protection in tariff and tax that other millions may be added to their already great accumulations.

If any other class organize, it is to make their influence felt in the election of men who will benefit them by such laws as are most needed by that class.

They make no fuss about belonging to any particular party and care nothing as to whether democrat or republican is in office, so long as they are satisfied that legislation will be to their particular advantage. This is everything; the name of the party in power is really of no account.

Farmers should organize in the same



way—with the distinct purpose of securing legislation needed by them to develop, stimulate and strengthen their industries, and to protect them from the ten thousand open, or underhand, methods of stealing from them the rightful rewards of their labor. This has for years been going on now, until farming is groaning under burdens with which no other industry could hope to survive a single decade.

It is a very common thing for us to find office-holders, who each month draw magnificent pay without doing a day's work, except to gather in votes on election day; or supplement a skilled clerk's work by some ignorant blunder. Some of them indeed sit in their easy chairs behind their desks and with feet elevated read the newspapers until weary with doing nothing. And we are paying liberally for all this.

Again, we find thirty or forty who count their wealth from twenty millions to one hundred and fifty millions of dollars, among the one or two hundred millionaires, into whose hands the great bulk of the property in these United States is surely gravitating. These men are clutching every opportunity to so influence legislation that they are comparatively free from taxation, and the rates in our hands—on the farmer's home, on the farmer's cattle, on the farmer's tools—becomes fearful.

Trusts—why should we speak more of these? Adulterations of food—who can measure these? Oppressive monopolies in transportation and freight—they are growing fearfully stronger and greater!

Have the farmers ever considered that corn by the ton, which must be handled in loading and unloading, is five dollars a ton, where human beings who load and unload themselves are carried for not less than three hundred dollars the ton?

We need a great deal of legislation on a

great many questions to place our interests where they should be placed; and making all due allowances, we must not forget that elections are the instruments we must use for this purpose. The organizations we form should be for political purposes; not democratic, not republican, as parties are named, but for the farmers' best interests.

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For The Maryland Farmer.

#### FIRE INSURANCE.

The combined Fire Insurance Companies, as is well known, have raised their premiums to almost double, on an average, of the amount demanded in 1887, and all those who insure are forced to pay this additional tax.

They claim that their business was at a loss, and therefore they must increase the premiums and require greater precautions and safeguards than hitherto at the insurers' expense. Let us see:

In this country in 1887 statistics are given to some extent as follows: 177 Fire Insurance Companies. Premiums, \$90,-500,000 in round numbers—Losses, \$55,-276,000—Profits, \$35,224,000. An average of about \$200,000 profit to each company.

They have formed a "trust," because dissatisfied with this immense profit, and they wish to double it. Let the facts be known.

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For The Maryland Farmer.

#### THE HORN FLY.

President Alvord's remarks about this fly are about the only sensible ones I have read. When the horn fly first appeared, most of them who noticed it jumped to the conclusion that it must be dangerous; why, I don't know, unless because it was "new."

They didn't stop to examine into the way the insect worked, but wrote to the papers asking for a remedy for the dangerous pest.

The U. S. Entomologist finally took pity upon the frightened stock owners and sent a circular letter to the papers—a kind of "patent insides" which I believe nearly every paper in the country printed—on which he gave some impracticable advice about killing the larva and also recommended the application of tar, &c., to the animal to keep the flies off. If farmers had adopted President Alvord's plan of seeing with their eyes, it would have saved much worry and printer's ink.

A. L. Crosby.

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For The Maryland Farmer.

#### CLOVER.

You will agree with me that one of our most important, as well as most neglected crops is clover; and you will aid me I trust in reforming the bad practice by transferring the enclosed to your columns.

As you are probably aware I have been for years in the habit of holding what I call "Agricultural Conversations" with bodies of farmers—the first 35 or 40 minutes being devoted to a lecture and an equal time thereafter to replying to questions propounded by members of the audience.

This has given me a painfully realizing sense of the exact needs of the farming community, especially in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Doubtless a similar need exists in Maryland and you will oblige me by helping to satisfy it.

ALFRED L. KENNEDY.

We may differ, fellow farmers, as to what is the best system of rotation of crops, but, of course, you recognize the advantages of rotation and cultivate your land according

to some system. If you raise Winter wheat you probably adopt the common 5-year shift, (1) corn, (2) oats, (3) wheat, (4) clover, (5) grass. You may prefer to substitute in part, rye for wheat, and potatoes for oats, but the other crops of the series remain unchanged. You also agree that every field in passing through the five-years' rotation should be limed once, but you are not agreed as to what crop of the series the lime should be applied.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the line of your practice, few subjects are more important than the relation of lime to each of the crops in the rotation.

First then as to Corn. This is not what agriculturists call a "lime plant." It has no special fondness for lime, and that substance is not largely taken up by its roots. What corn loves is plenty of barnyard manure, and if that is scarce, then supply some other nitrogen-yielding fertilizer.

\* \* \* \* \*

Nor is Oats a lime plant. Following the corn as it does, if that has been as heavily manured as it should be, the oats will need no fertilizer.

Neither is Wheat a plant requiring to be limed. What it chiefly wants is bone dust or South Carolina rock previously treated with sulphuric acid to increase its solubility.

But Clover, the fourth crop in the five-year shift, loves lime dearly and you ought by all means, to gratify it. It came up during the spring among the wheat where you had sowed it, and it now almost completely conceals the wheat stubble left by the reaper. Have you limed it?

\* \* \* \* \*

When finely-ground limestone is to be had at a sufficiently low price, it may be used instead of lime. Of course it can be spread as fast as it is hauled to the field,

and therefore saves time and labor.

\* \* \* \* \*

Should the great bulk of the lime or limestone to be transported, and the heavy railroad charges bring the cost of it, on long distances, too high to admit of its employment, there is a less bulky substance for liming your clover to which you may have recourse: Gypsum or land-plaster.

\* \* \* \* \*

Of the three forms of fertilizer, lime acts most rapidly on the vegetable matter in the soil, and also upon the wheat stubble, converting them into plant food. Lime and limestone act about equally well upon the mineral matter in the soil, bringing it into a condition to be taken up by the earth juices, and when dissolved in them to enter into the circulation of the plant. Land plaster is the most soluble of the three in water and ready in that form to enter the roots and pass to the stem and leaves. It also possesses the invaluable property of changing the volatile forms of ammonia contained in the soil and the adjacent air into fixed or non-volatile compounds, and of holding them so as to prevent escape until they in solution enter the rootlets. It enriches the soil not only by the lime it contains but by the nitrogen-compounds which it gathers and holds until wanted. It is therefore most favorable to the growth of clover.

#### THE DELINEATOR.

During the past year the Delineator, that great work of 'The Fashions' has increased in circulation from 225,000 to 285,000 and still progresses. The past year has been crowded with interesting matter in addition to styles and materials for dress. The year to-come will be an improvement upon anything in the past,

and nothing published can at all compare with it—in its department—at the price of \$1.00 a year. It gives no premiums, it offers no inducements except its own excellence. No family can afford to be without it, which is able to buy a dress and make it. Address Butterick Pub. Co., New York, N. Y.

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#### THE SILVER CONVENTION.

Our readers should remember the National Silver Convention to be held in St. Louis, Nov. 28th., and should take measures to be represented there. Address Secretary N. S. C., 319 N. 3rd st., St. Louis, Mo., for any information needed.

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#### THE MARYLAND FARMER.

The TIMES DEMOCRAT has received the following notice:

"Commencing with Nov. 1, 1889, the *Maryland Farmer and New Farm* will be issued every week."

This is, we believe, the first and only weekly magazine in the country. For many years we have been favored with the monthly visits of this most excellent and reliable agricultural journal, and here we desire to place upon record our appreciation of its numerous merits.

Published by Walworth & Co., Baltimore, Md., at \$1 per year, in advance.—*N. O. Times Democrat.*

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#### BETTER THAN GOLD.

Better than grandeur, better than gold,  
Than rank and titles a thousand fold,  
Is a healthy body and a mind at ease,  
And simple pleasures that always please:  
A heart that can feel for another's woe,  
Quick to feel and quick to know,  
With sympathies large enough to enfold  
All men as brothers, is better than gold.

# STOCK FOR THE FARM.

Address any of this list of Breeders and Dealers and you will find a prompt answer if you mention the Maryland Farmer. We believe every one of them to be reliable.  
—Editor Md. Farmer.

**Reid Brothers,** English Shires, Clydesdales, Shetland Ponies. Janesville, Wis.

**Geo. F. Davis & Co** Originators Victoria Swine-Stock for sale. Dyer, Ind.

**E. H. Smith,** Standard bred Horses, Fancy Pigs and Poultry. Salem, N. J.

**J. C. & D. Pennington.** Registered Jersey Cattle. Paterson, N. J.

**W. E. Pendleton,** Choice Yorkshire Swine. Agt. New London, Conn.

For the Maryland Farmer.

## STOCK ON THE FARM, VII.

Grass the Great Renovator. Silos the Hope of the Future. The Farmer's Bank at Home.

The Blessed Cow.

The Horse.

The Sheep and the Dog.

I have to acknowledge the force of the criticisms of A. L. C., on the closing words of my article in October Maryland Farmer; but I think I gave sufficient reasons for desiring an American breed in that article taken as a whole; and if A. L. C.'s premises are correct, I cannot see in the quantity there stated by him any reason for not making the effort to get the largest quantity and the best quality combined in the American breed.

To be sure 56 pounds of butter in a week is an immense production for a single cow. Yet in other fields we have lived to see things fully as wonderful.

The telephone is a wonder, to stand be-

side the greatest of miracles; the phonograph producing the words and voice of our loved and long buried friends years after they were spoken, is a thing almost passing belief and yet is real.

The disintegration of milk, so that in a brief period after milking, a continuous stream of butter is produced, thus doing away with the long and always uncertain methods of ordinary churning, is something we could scarcely be brought to believe a few years back. And yet this is a well demonstrated fact.

Is there any insurmountable reason why the Holsteins should not give as rich milk as the Jerseys? It is well known they do not at present; but that is no reason for saying it is impossible to bring them, or any other breed of large milk production to the same Jersey quality.

In any event, it will do no harm for experts to have this purpose before them, even if a new breed is necessary to secure the result. It is precisely on this account that the new breed is desirable. The Holsteins will under scientific treatment, such as the experienced can bestow, give a quantity of milk that is truly wonderful; and if the farmer wishes to keep cows to supply some neighboring city with milk, the Holsteins are what he wants—always provided he has not some American scrubs which equal or surpass the average Holstein. But the Holsteins under the best treatment of such men as Smiths, Powell & Lamb are incapable of reaching the Jersey quality.

Let us then, develope a breed of great milk producers to rival both Holsteins and

Jerseys and who will object to its being American?

The objection of A. L. C., to the attempt, does not meet the question. If there were only two or three breeders in our country, and they were hemmed in by some protective tariff so that their work could be monopolized by them, there might possibly be no time for them to spend on a new breed even with the prospect of the greatest improvement! But this is not the case. On every farm is full freedom, and the land is filled with live men who, if they do not now understand the philosophy of true breeding, can readily learn it. Then breeding and feeding to the one purpose, the work becomes a success with far less expenditure of time than in the case of these others.

I have read the various accounts of the origin of the Friesian strain and also of the Jerseys, and while it extends back for some hundreds of years as I have stated in my former communication, I am convinced that the really valuable work is comprised in the last fifty years, or even less; for as a general statement it may be said that these strains were not bred in a scientific way; but were matched in a hap-hazard manner and with little view of scientific, practical results.

It was thus, indeed, until foreign demand, in good part by enterprizing dealers from this country, aroused the holders of these cattle to the importance of some particular development and induced them to give attention to points.

The facts stated by A. L. C., that the best Holstein gives 8 pounds of milk in a day, the best Jersey gives 1 pound of butter to 10 pounds of milk, thus showing 8 pounds of butter a day as a possible future record, should certainly become a powerful incentive to those who would bring up the great breed with the American name.

Don't be discouraged, brother farmers, the field of improvement in stock is just as promising as in any other department of human life and you are to make use of it.

NISBET.

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Entered as second class matter at Baltimore, Md.

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THE  
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AND  
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ISSUED EVERY WEEK.

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ISSUED EVERY WEEK.

We appeal to our friends to help us to make the old, reliable Maryland Farmer the magazine of the people.

Issued every week, we are confident it can be introduced into almost every home by a little earnest talk.

It will be better than ever before, for it will come fresh every week with the best news of the day.

We have made arrangements with the

American Press Association for their best Agricultural articles.

Home Life will also have a prominent place, and our contributors will give us a spicy food for serious thought.

It is now 26 years old, and during all that time has worked for the farmers' interests—it will continue to do so.

\$1.00 a year, for 52 numbers.

WALWORTH & Co.

Baltimore, Md.

#### THANKSGIVING.

November 28th, this year. No matter what has transpired in our experience during the past year, thousands of circumstances have come to us for which we have cause to be thankful. Let us every one count over the blessings of life on this day and rejoice that we are living in a land of freedom and comparative plenty.

Not a discontented word should obtrude on this day; put all such in the background until to-morrow, and if it be possible sink them out of sight and hearing forever.

#### Consumption Surely Cured.

To the Editor:—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for consumption. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their Express and P. O. Address. Respectfully, T. A. SLOCUM, M. C., 181 Pearl St., N. Y.

WEST BROOK, NORTH CAROLINA,  
Sept 6th, 1886.

DR. A. T. SHALLENBERGER.

Rochester, Pa. Dear Sir:—The two boxes of Pills you sent me did everything you said they would. My son was the victim of Malaria, deep-set, by living in Florida two years, and the Antidote has done more than five hundred dollars' worth of other medicines could have done for him. I have had one of my neighbors try the medicine, and it cured him immediately. I now recommend it to every one suffering from Malaria.

Respectfully yours, W. W. MONROE

#### Farms For Sale.

**50 Acres.** About two miles beyond the city limits, 10 minutes walk from depot, trains to meet wants of business men, a very desirable suburban home with all pleasant surroundings: beautiful trees and shrubbery, fruits and flowers, landscape gardening, hot-house and grapevines, dairy, ice-house and a very commodious barn. Good dwelling for farm help. Water forced into all parts of house and grounds. Situation unsurpassed. Only \$350 an acre, once sold for nearly \$1000 an acre, cash. Terms easy.

**600 Acres**, near Morehead City, N. C. A good home. One chance in a thousand.—200 timber, 200 cultivated, 200 permanent evergreen pasture. Remarkably healthy, pure water, cool ocean breezes in summer, snow very rare. Good neighbors, plenty of buildings, R. R. station on the property, The ocean and city in full view. Fish and game in abundance. \$3,500, to suit.

**3 Acres**, 1 mile from Fork P. O., Baltimore Co.—deep black soil—the whole as a garden—stone dwelling and all necessary out-buildings, all in good condition. Good water, 15 miles from city. \$800.

**97 Acres**,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Pocomoke City. Good dwelling. 6 acres Apples. Grass land. Loamy soil. \$2,000. Easy terms.

**10 Acres**. Park Heights, beautiful building site, or will divide into two lots—Only \$1500 an acre.

**360 Acres**, near Cobb's Creek, Va., a beautiful home farm—much fruit and all the advantages of bordering on deep water—steamer from Baltimore, \$8,500.

**169 Acres**, on Patuxent River. 2 miles from steamboat landing, Weems line. 3 story dwelling in fair condition—2 good 40ft barns, large corn house and large carriage house—2 tenant houses—excellent loamy soil—under all chestnut fencing and divided into three fields. Will sell for \$25 an acre, (worth \$50) half cash. Call and get further directions—This is a Home Farm.

Address MARYLAND FARMER.



For The Maryland Farmer.

BESSIE.

Up in the branches  
And free from care,  
The sunlight glances  
All through her hair.

Her bright eyes glisten,  
The leaves are stirred,  
Ear quick to listen  
For the old bird.

The mother bird flies  
Swift to the nest  
And Bessie's bright eyes  
Tell you the rest.

W.

## BOOKS, CATALOGUES &amp;c.

Rice & Whitaere M'fg Co. "The Kriebel" engine.

Consul Vocke, Friesian Herdbook 1889 Vol. xv.

Improvement of Highways, A. Bassett, Box 5367 Boston, Mass., send 2c.

Highway Improvement, Col. A. A. Pope, Boston, Mass.

Water Supply of Cumberland, Md., by C. W. Chancellor, M. D.

## AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

## PUBLICATIONS.

These have been many and valuable during the past month. The Insect Life for October is well worthy of preservation.

First Report, Sec'y of Agr., 1889,

Root Knot Disease of Peach, Orange, &c.

Experiments at Sugar Station, Baldwin, La.

## STATE DEPARTMENT.

Trade, etc., between U. S. and Spanish America.

Sep. Reports, No. 108.

## AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT

## STATION.

Storrs School, No 5—Atmospheric Nitrogen as plant food.

New York, Geneva—Cattle foods and feeding rations.

## ELECTRIC BELT FREE.

To introduce it and obtain agents the undersigned firm will give away a few of their \$5.00 German Electric Belts invented by Prof. Van der Weyde, Pres. of the New York Electrical Society (U. S. Pat. 257,647) a positive cure for Nervous Debility, Rheumatism, Loss of Power, &c. Address Electric Agency, P. O. Box 178, Brooklyn, N. Y. Write them to-day.

Job Printing of every description—good work—low prices—prompt service—at the MARYLAND FARMER Printing Office.

## Value of Cotswold and Merino Breeds.

There is more or less discussion among sheep raisers as to the relative value of Cotswold and Merino breeds. While there is a great difference of opinion as to their merits, a Utah authority in sheep husbandry claims that there are none who will dispute the fact that between these two breeds will be fought the battle that will decide which is the best sheep for our mountain and desert ranges. Without doubt the Cotswold ewe is the best mother and the lambs are more hardy than those of the Merino. On the other hand, the genuine French Merino yields much the larger clip, and at the same time gives a larger carcass for the shambles. We believe, says the authority referred to, that the coming sheep for the western country will be a cross between these two breeds, having the best qualities of the two judiciously blended. This will take time, of course, but, if all sheep raisers would strive to that end, it would mean a greater amount of wool, a better grade of wool, and higher price for it than we get now.

## Look Here, Friend, Are you Sick?

Do you suffer from Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Sour Stomach, Liver Complaint, Nervousness, Lost Appetite, Biliousness, Exhaustion or Tired Feeling, Pains in Chest or Lungs, Dry Cough, Night-sweats or any form of consumption? If so send to Prof. Hart, 88 Warren St., New York, who will send you free, by mail, a bottle of *Floraplexion*, which is a sure cure. Send to-day.

## A GOOD COW.

The cities have attractions; but all their promises of ease and comfort are deceitful—They are never redeemed. Keep to the country.

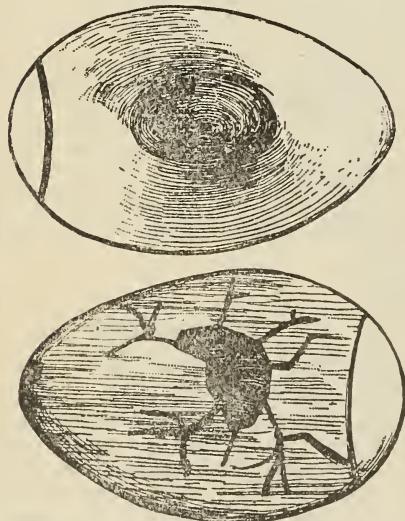
A good cow is flat ribbed just back of the shoulders and has well sprung ribs further back. She has broad, flat ribs and so far apart that one can lay two fingers between them. Her skin should be loose and flappy over the flank and her umbilical development should be firm and strong, with the veins of the belly very prominent. She should be broad between the eyes, should have a medium length, straight face and bright and prominent eyes. Besides, the poll or forehead should be long between the horns and the eye; the neck should be

clean and thin and backbone strong, the pelvic arch high, the hams thin to give ample room for a large udder, and the tail should be long, slim or flat. She should have a long udder, extending well back and front—one that will be soft and flabby when milked out—and should have a three-fold, wedge-shaped form, the general tendency of weight being towards the udder, indicating power to produce milk.

### FERTILE AND INFERTILE EGGS.

In answer to many inquiries in regard to the appearance of fertile and infertile eggs, at different stages of incubation, Ohio Farmer gave recently some illustrations that made the thing plain, and which are here reproduced for the benefit of our readers.

Fig. 1 shows how an infertile egg looks when viewed through the egg tester at four or five days. It appears like a fresh egg, as you may observe by looking at both. These infertile eggs will not hatch.



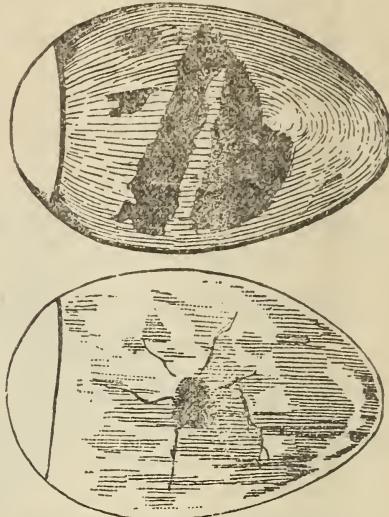
FIGS. 1 AND 2.—EGGS VIEWED THROUGH A TESTER.

Fig. 2, in the same cut, shows a fertile egg (one with a live embryo) at five days. It is simply a dark spot with tiny lines radiating from it. It looks like a spider with legs of different lengths.

Fig. 3 shows how a dead embryo looks

As soon as possible, get a home of your own, paying in part and getting the balance on fair terms. It gives an object for labor and you will succeed.

at five days or six days. The spot and the lines, or veins, are there, but they are cloudy and broken, not clear and distinct as in the live embryo.



FIGS. 3 AND 4.—EGGS VIEWED THROUGH A TESTER.

On the tenth or twelfth day the live embryo will look much like Fig. 4, and if you hold the egg perfectly still you can see a slow movement of the embryo. At this stage an egg containing a dead embryo will look all "mixed up." Three or four days before hatching, an egg that contains a live chick will be opaque, all dark except the air cell.

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If there were more drains on the farm there would be fewer druggists in the village.

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### WHEN TO STOP CHURNING.

A great deal has been said and written by dairy workers about the proper time for stopping the churn. Much of this information has been lost because it is a difficult matter to tell a person just how a thing ought to appear. One glance from an observing eye being worth more than a half hour's mere talk, Rural New Yorker conceived the idea of having samples of butter photographed — as taken from the churn—one just right and the other showing the effects of overchurning. These photographs we

reproduce, along with the original description, for the benefit of our own readers.



BUTTER CHURNED JUST ENOUGH.

The first illustration, showing a sample of butter with particles like shot, represents the condition in which butter properly churned should be.

The object of having the butter in this condition is that it may be in such a shape that the buttermilk may be washed out instead of having to be worked out, as would have to be done when the butter is churned into large lumps. Cream that is properly ripened and churned at about 60 degrees can be brought to the proper granular condition with a little care in watching the churn. Then by washing the buttermilk all out and working just enough to thoroughly distribute the salt, the butter should be in the best possible condition for immediate use or for keeping.

In the second cut is represented an overchurned sample, such as is commonly found among the majority of farmers. This is in large lumps, which are objectionable for the reasons already suggested.

Several Wisconsin dairymen who have won prizes for their butter tell how they manage. One says: "I churn the cream in a revolving churn until the butter comes into a granular form. Then I put brine in and revolve the churn a few times, and then the butter will be like small shot. Then I draw off the buttermilk and put in water and revolve the churn, and then draw off the water and repeat till the water is clear. Then the butter is fit to be salted. I shake the salt over the butter in the churn and revolve once and salt again. The butter is like shot all this time. Then I revolve the churn over and over till the butter is in one big ball ready for packing."

Another butter winner says: I use the barrel churn, and churn at 62 degs. When the butter is about the size of mustard seed I stop and make two or three quarts of weak brine and put that in, and then revolve the churn a few

Lighten the labors of the wife and daughters in the home—at the best their work is heavy, their hours of labor long.

## Alex. Bond & Co.

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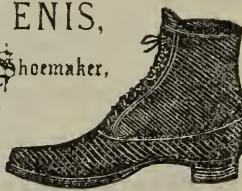
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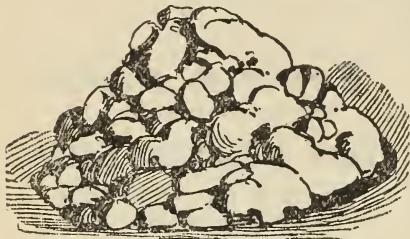
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The Maryland Farmer,

times and let it stand three or four minutes and then draw off the buttermilk; then I get two pails of water and put in a handful of salt and temper it to 50 degs., and put it in the churn and revolve a few times. I next let it stand for a few minutes, then draw off the water



BUTTER CHURNED TOO MUCH.

and repeat this operation. I then put in salt (after all the water has been drawn off), about one ounce to the pound, and mix it up in the churn. Next, I revolve the churn a few times, let the butter stand a few minutes in the salt, then revolve the churn until the butter is in a solid mass. I then pack it or print it, as may be, out of the churn. I use no butter worker, as I think working it spoils the grain.

## SWEET POTATOES.

The several rules for digging and plans for banking, hillling and housing sweet potatoes are based upon a few simple principles which seem to be generally adopted, viz.: That the potatoes should be dug about the time a killing frost is expected, or immediately thereafter; that they should be handled so as to prevent bruising and cutting; that they should be put up in such manner as to keep of uniform and rather low temperature (above freezing); that they should be kept dry. The plan of pouring dry sand among the potatoes in the hill or house, so as to fill all the interstices, is excellent. We have kept potatoes sound, sweet and dry until potatoes "come again" by packing in barrels and filling with dry sand. The sand tends to prevent sudden changes of temperature, it absorbs and equalizes moisture and probably prevents (mechanically) the spread of the fungus spores throughout the bulk.

The simplest way to hill the potatoes (largely practiced at the south) is to dig when the ground is dry, if possible, about the time of first frost. Drive a

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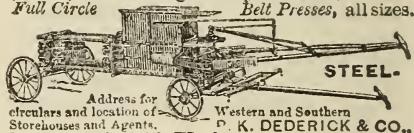
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post in the ground and saw off about four feet high; cover the ground thickly with dry pine straw; place the potatoes carefully, piling them as steep as they will lie, and about twenty-five bushels to the hill; cover the potatoes with pine straw or dry corn stalks, regularly laid, not less than six inches deep; cover over all with dirt dug from around the outer edge of the hill, at the first rather shallow, but adding more dirt as cold weather approaches, until the earth is a foot thick at every point.—Southern Cultivator.

### KEEPING APPLES.

Every fruit grower understands that none but the most careful hands should be allowed to gather fruit from the trees that is designed for long keeping. A careful man ought also to do all the barreling. Apples should be lifted by the hands and carefully laid—not dropped—into their places in the barrel. Face two rows, stem down, against the head that is to be taken out when the barrel is opened for sale or use. The others may be laid in indiscriminately but carefully until the barrel is full. A gentle shaking is allowable, just enough to better settle the fruit in place; then the head should be pressed in by the use of an apple press. Just how much pressure may be applied must be left to the judgment of the operator, but it is quite as likely to be too little as too much. At this stage a bruise from the pressure of the head will not cause rot, as it would were the pressure not still continued upon it, by which the germs of decay seem to be prevented from entering the bruised spot, as they would if it were more freely exposed to the atmosphere. Whatever may be the reason, it is quite well established that a pressure that prevents any movement of the apples when the package is handled, even if it occasions bruises to a few, is necessary to good keeping when barreled.

While a selection of fair and slightly apples is allowable and expected for the head, to be shown to the buyer, these should not be so much better than the average as to be disappointing when examined lower down, but all should be merchantable and up to the standard that is claimed for them. In packing apples for sale it is advised to make first and second qualities, and where there is

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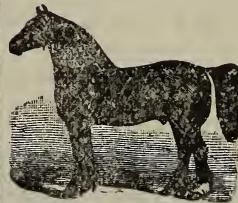
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a portion of unusually large fruit even a third may be made to advantage, for uniformity in size adds much to the appearance. More money will be obtained for a crop properly graded and each sold on its merits than if all were packed indiscriminately without regard to size. In general, packing in the orchard at the time of the picking will be found the best; but circumstances alter cases so much that no fixed rule will apply alike to all.

Of the many plans practiced in keeping apples, one is to store the fruit temporarily in bins in a barn or other building until the advent of freezing weather. Another is to keep them in narrow cribs in the orchard. Of the two the latter is the best, if the crib is made in the shade and further protected from rain and sun by loose boards. The only advantage that can be claimed for keeping them in bulk for a few weeks is a saving in cooperage. It is, however, liable to the objection of much more handling than when barreled in the orchard at the picking, and, furthermore, it is thought a full exposure to the atmosphere is not the best condition to resist decay.

As commonly arranged, a cellar is the last place in which apples should be stored until it becomes necessary to prevent them from freezing, and quite

Buy everything at first hands, if possible. Sell everything to the consumer.

often a wet cellar will prove better than a dry one. There is probably no better way of keeping apples in barrels during the varying temperature of autumn and early winter than in a storeroom on the ground floor of a building having thick walls. At each end of the room there should be a door and windows by which such a circulation of air can be maintained as the general temperature may require. Such a place will afford as good conditions for the preservation of fruit by natural means as can be obtained, and in many sections can be safely used through the entire winter. This trouble with cellars, explains The World, from which the foregoing is taken, arises mainly from defective ventilation. The occasional opening of windows does not afford it in a good form. A constant and regular circulation is what is wanted. Where the outside air can be admitted at the bottom through an underground passage and the cellar be connected with a chimney for air escape, it will be an excellent place for the winter storage of fruit. Whenever it becomes necessary to assort apples that have been barreled, it will be better to market them at once than to keep them longer. The exposure and handling will be likely to cause more rot afterward than if they had not been disturbed.

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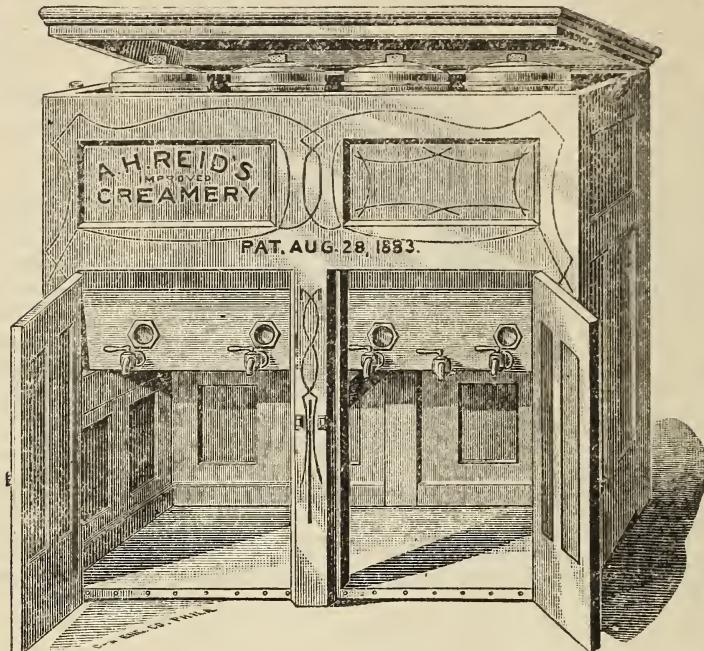
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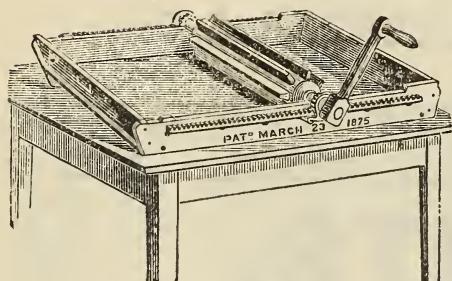
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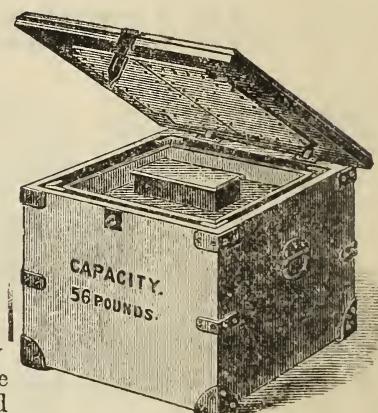
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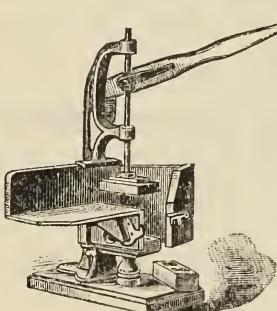


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